

I CLAIM:

1. A protector for an inlet to a sewer system, which includes a grate over an opening into the system, comprising a closed, porous, tubular casing for placing on or around the periphery of a sewer inlet opening; a skirt connected to said casing for overlapping side edges of a sewer inlet opening and for retaining the protector in position when a grate is placed over the opening to engage the skirt; and a filler in the casing for maintaining the top of the casing in an expanded condition so that the casing can act as a barrier, at least one of the casing, the skirt and the filler being permeable to water and impermeable to silt, oil, tar and other contaminants, whereby the protector permits the flow of water while blocking the flow of contaminants into a sewer.

2. The protector of claim 1, wherein said casing is formed of a fabric selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyester, burlap and tarpaulin.

3. The protector of claim 1, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of stones, rubber chips, straw, peat moss, coconut fiber, wood chips, sawdust, wood shavings and particulate polypropylene.

4. The protector of claim 1, wherein the casing is in the form of an elongated, hollow cylinder having closed ends, said skirt extending outwardly from one bottom side edge of the casing in the use position for overlapping side edges of a sewer inlet when a grate over the inlet is removed, said skirt retaining the casing around the periphery of the sewer opening when the grate is placed on the skirt to close the sewer opening.

5. The protector of claim 1, wherein said casing is annular, said skirt extending radially outwardly from a bottom side edge of the casing for wrapping around a sewer grate.

6. The protector of claim 5, including grommets in side edges of said skirt, and a cord for threading through said grommets when the skirt is wrapped around a sewer grate to secure the protector on the grate.

7. The protector of claim 6, wherein the casing and the filler therein are impermeable to water and contaminants, and said filler is resilient, whereby the casing and filler rebound when subjected to a compressive load.

8. The protector of claim 6, wherein both the casing and the filler therein are permeable to water and impermeable to contaminants.